

Pemberton Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

FEBRUARY, 1896.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my 22nd Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Urban District of Pemberton for the year ending December, 1895, comprising tabular statements of the sickness and mortality within the District, classified according to diseases and ages, and a summary of the action taken during the year for the prevention of the spread of infectious and other diseases, and during each quarter the result or outcome of periodical and systematic inspection of the District; the classification of diseases notifiable, to which the Act of 1889 has been applied by the Local Authority, and a note of the rainfall for each month of the year, taken at the Waterworks just outside the boundary of the District.

The births total 893 as compared with 771, 849, 814, 844, 749, 816, 733, 744, 647 and 649 for the ten preceding years. Of the births 482 were males and 411 females. In the first quarter 131 males and 104 females, total 235; in the second 119 and 107, total 226; in the third, 105 and 90, total 195; in the fourth 127 and 110, total 237. For the first half of the year 461, and the second 432.

The births exceeded the deaths by 512.

The births registered varied little during each month, the greatest number was 40 in January, the smallest number 24 in May.

The birth-rate is 43·3, as compared with 38·7 for the year before, and 43·5 the average for the ten preceding years.

The deaths total 381 as compared with 384, 518, 372, 366, 398, 351, 335, 329, 350 and 344 for the ten preceding years; for the first half of the year 185, for the second 196. During the first quarter 65 males and 49 females—114; during the second 71 (36 and 35); during the third 99 (58 and 41); during the fourth 97 (49 and 48).

The death-rate is 18·7, as compared with 19·2 for the preceding year and 20·8 the average for the previous ten years.

Zymotic-rate 2·1, Phthisis death-rate ·77, Diarrhœa 0·58, Respiratory death-rate 4·02. Rate of infant mortality in proportion of deaths under one year to 1,000 births 166.

No deaths were returned from Small-pox, Diphtheria, Cholera, Relapsing Fever, Erysipelas, or Ague.

The diseases prevalent during the year were Measles, Whooping Cough, and a few cases of Scarlet and Enteric Fever.

Measles caused 5 deaths, all under five years of age, and during the first quarter, viz.: one at Goose Green in January, two, ditto, in February, and one at Lamberhead Green, and one at Goose Green in March. Nearly all followed by Pneumonia, and the deaths were large in proportion to the number of cases.

Scarlet Fever caused five deaths, one in April at Marsh Green, one in May at Lamberhead Green, one in September at Goose Green, one in October at Hospital from Newtown, and one in November at Newtown. The deaths were large in proportion to the number of cases.

Whooping Cough was prevalent at Goose Green and Newtown during the first half of the year. The number of deaths (17) was large in proportion to the number of cases.

Two deaths were returned from Enteric Fever in January, one at Lamberhead Green, and one at Hospital from Newtown. The cases notified were most numerous during this month. February and April were free. There were three or four cases in each month during the remainder of the year.

Deaths from Diarrhœa in children are only returned in August and September (four and seven respectively) spread over the district.

Phthisis caused 17 deaths (two under five years) chiefly from the low-lying parts of the district.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia, distributed throughout the year, caused a similar proportion of the deaths as in the previous year.

Two deaths were returned from Puerperal Fever at Newtown, and some women died in or immediately after childbirth from other causes in the same locality.

For a considerable number of years the district has appeared to be free from Typhus Fever. This year six cases of sickness were notified, chiefly children, at Worsley Mesnes and Newtown; and one death, a child, four years of age, from Soho Street, Newtown. How far this is due to the Notification Act I cannot say, but occasionally you have Enteric Fever closely simulating Typhus, especially under conditions favourable to the latter, such as want of ventilation and sufficient nourishment.

As the outcome of frequent and systematic inspection of the District, there was noticed and work done as follows :—

1st Quarter.

Overcrowded dwelling-houses at Thwaites' Delf and Newtown, and houses requiring limewashing at the latter place. Notices for the abatement of the nuisances were served and afterwards complied with.

Stoppages of drains at various properties were remedied and the want of drainage for surface water to prevent dampness reported upon.

Defective rain waterspouts at Little Lane and Warrington Road.

Manure accumulation dealt with, smoke nuisances from bakehouse chimneys reported upon, also wet and otherwise dilapidated privies and ashpits; notices being served.

2nd Quarter.

Wet ashpits and privies at Scot Lane and Ormskirk Road concreted and repaired.

Defective drainage at Lamberhead Green and several stoppages of house drains remedied.

Houses requiring limewashing at Newtown, Lamberhead Green and Marsh Green, for which notices were served and the work afterwards carried out.

Overcrowded dwelling-houses at Lamberhead Green and Newtown, notices for abatement being served.

Property at Lamberhead Green without rain waterspouts and piggery nuisance reported upon. Nuisances abated after the service of notices.

Nuisances arising from smoke from Railway Locomotives and brickworks.

3rd Quarter.

Dwelling-houses overcrowded and others requiring limewashing at Lamberhead Green, Marsh Green, Goose Green, and Newtown. Notices served and complied with.

Stoppages of house drains and drains from properties at Goose Green and Newtown discharging into old sewer, but were subsequently connected with the main sewers.

Smoke nuisance from works at Newtown reported upon.

Dilapidated and wet privies and ashpits at Newtown.

Defective spouting on properties at Highfield and Lamberhead Green, causing dampness, reported upon and afterwards remedied.

4th Quarter.

Unsatisfactory and untrapped drains at properties at Newtown and Goose Green which were subsequently relaid and properly trapped. House undrained at Newtown and minor stoppages of house drains observed.

Nuisances arising from leaking ashpits which were repaired, and notices served for the reconstruction of wet and dilapidated ashpits at Goose Green, Lamberhead Green, and Thwaite's Delf. Poultry keeping in bedroom of dwelling-house, overcrowded dwelling-houses, and houses requiring limewashing at Newtown.

Defective house roof and rain water spouts at Little Lane and Goose Green, notices being served.

During the first quarter the Council issued to manufacturers, colliery proprietors, and others a copy of the circular received from the County Council in September, 1894, with reference to smoke nuisances, and requesting that steps be taken to prevent, as far as possible, the nuisance arising from this cause.

The Council have now one of their own men doing the work of chimney sweeping whenever requested to do so by householders, and any cases of chimney firing are dealt with. Several summonses have been taken out.

New automatic flush closets have been provided at St. John's St. Cuthbert's and Kitt Green schools during the year.

The house gully traps throughout the district were cleaned out and disinfected by the Council's own men, who also remove old mattresses and chaff beds to the sewage pumping works on receipt of notice, where they are destroyed.

The number of ashpits emptied during the year is 3,865.

Thirty-eight privies and seventeen ashpits have been reconstructed, and otherwise repaired and rendered dry.

Bedding and clothing from infected houses has been disinfected in the stove at the hospital, and houses fumigated—Disinfectants have been freely supplied during the year.

The bakehouses, cowsheds, and slaughter houses have been regularly inspected.

Fifty-nine new houses have been erected, and one demolished during the year.

Rainfall recorded at the Council's Waterworks, Billinge, during the year ended 31st December, 1895.

January	2·73
February	·23
March... ..	3·23
April	2·16
May	1·14
June	1·57
July	4·99
August	4·01
September	1·38
October	4·83
November	3·10
December	3·26
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	32·63
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Return of notification certificates received during the year ended
31st December, 1895.

Month.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Membran- ous Croup.	Diphtheria.	Total.
January	11	—	7	—	1	2	1	—	22
February ...	—	—	9	—	—	—	2	—	11
March	1	—	6	—	—	1	1	—	9
April	—	—	7	—	—	4	—	—	11
May	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	8
June.....	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	7
July	3	—	7	—	—	1	—	—	11
August	2	1	5	—	—	2	—	—	10
September ...	6	2	7	—	—	—	2	—	17
October	3	—	8	—	1	—	—	1	13
November ...	4	2	8	—	1	2	—	—	17
December ...	7	—	11	—	—	4	—	2	24
	44	6	81	1	3	16	6	3	160

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. HARTLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

